

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-42 (cancelled)

43. (currently amended) A method for reducing the permeability of vapor or gas through a multilayer rigid container body structure comprising a polymeric base layer and a zero valent material barrier layer on a an exterior surface of the polymeric base layer, the method comprising applying to the zero valent material barrier layer a top coat an aqueous solution comprising water and a water soluble compound capable of reducing the permeability of the multilayer structure to gas or vapor and evaporating the water, so as to form a top coat on the zero valent material barrier layer at least partially disposed in the pinholes, the top coat comprising the water soluble compound.

44. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is a barrier to transmission of ultraviolet light.

45. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is a metal coating.

46. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is a silicon, aluminum, nickel, chromium or copper coating.

47. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is a silicon coating.

48. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is an aluminum coating.

49. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the multilayer structure rigid container body has an ultraviolet light transmission of less than 5 %.

50. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound has a carboxyl, hydroxyl, or carboxamide functional group.

51. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound is in a solid state at a temperature of 25 degrees C and atmospheric pressure.

52. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound is nonreactive with the zero valent material barrier layer.

53. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound is nontoxic.

54. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound is polymeric.

55. (currently amended) A method as in claim 54 wherein the polymeric water soluble compound is selected from the group consisting of carboxymethyl cellulose, poly(acrylamide), polydextrose, poly(acrylic acid), and poly(vinyl alcohol).

56. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the water soluble compound is monomeric.

57. (currently amended) A method as in claim 56 wherein the monomeric water soluble compound is selected from the group consisting of sucrose, caramel, and citric acid.

58. (cancelled)

59. (currently amended) A method as in claim 58 43 wherein the water soluble compound, when in the aqueous solution, is in the form of molecules having a maximum dimension less than one micron.

60. (cancelled)

61. (original) A method as in claim 43 wherein the zero valent material barrier layer is applied to the base layer with vapor deposition or sputtering.

62. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the polymeric base layer is a thermoplastic layer.

63. (currently amended) A method as in claim 43 wherein the polymeric base layer is polyethylene terephthalate.

Claims 64 - 70 (cancelled)